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with the Sequence Listing annexed hereto as Exhibit A.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-4, 8-23 and 132 without prejudice to applicant's right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please add new claims 134-146 as follows:

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134. (New)

A method for determining whether an agent decreases apoptosis comprising:

- (a) contacting the agent with a cell death executor and a p75 neurotrophin receptor under conditions which, in the absence of the agent, permit the formation of a complex between the cell death executor and the receptor;
- (b) determining the amount of complex formed in step (a) between the cell death executor and the receptor; and
- (c) determining whether the amount of complex determined in step (b) is less than the amount of complex formed in the absence of the agent, such lower amount indicating that the agent decreases apoptosis.

135. (New)

A method for determining whether an agent increases apoptosis comprising:

- (a) contacting the agent with a cell death executor and a p75 neurotrophin receptor

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H3
cont

under conditions which, in the absence of the agent, permit the formation of a complex between the cell death executor and the receptor;

- (b) determining the amount of complex formed in step (a) between the cell death executor and the receptor; and
- (c) determining whether the amount of complex determined in step (b) is greater than the amount of complex formed in the absence of the agent, such greater amount indicating that the agent increases apoptosis.

136. (New) The method of claim 134 or 135, wherein the cell death executor is NADE.

137. (New) The method of claim 134 or 135, wherein the contacting of step (a) is performed *in vitro*.

138. (New) The method of claim 137, wherein the contacting of step (a) is performed in an intact cell.

139. (New) The method of claim 138, wherein the intact cell is a neuron, a cardiac cell, or a lung cell.

140. (New) The method of claim 137, wherein the contacting of step (a) is not performed in an intact cell.

141. (New) A method for determining whether an agent decreases apoptosis comprising:

- (a) contacting the agent with a cell that

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expresses a cell death executor and a p75 neurotrophin receptor;

- (b) determining the expression level of the cell death executor in the cell; and
- (c) determining whether the expression level determined in step (b) is lower than the cell death executor expression level determined in the absence of the agent, such lower expression level indicating that the agent decreases apoptosis.

142. (New) A method for determining whether an agent increases apoptosis comprising

- (a) contacting the agent with a cell that expresses a cell death executor and a p75 neurotrophin receptor;
- (b) determining the expression level of the cell death executor in the cell; and
- (c) determining whether the expression level determined in step (b) is greater than the cell death executor expression level determined in the absence of the agent, such greater expression level indicating that the agent increases apoptosis.

143. (New) The method of claim 141 or 142, wherein the cell death executor is NADE.

144. (New) The method of claim 141 or 142, wherein the contacting of step (a) is performed in vitro.